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REPORT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY
OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,
AT ITS
FIRST GENERAL MEETING,
ON
THE 15TH OF MARCH, 1823.

THE first *General Meeting* of the Asiatic Society, having, in the original Prospectus, been fixed for the 15th of March, the Committee appointed for making the necessary arrangements, took measures to carry that intention into effect. Under the authority of a meeting of Original Members, a *Circular Letter* was issued, by which the General Meeting was convened. The letter communicated to the Members the business in which the meeting, on this day, would be engaged, being chiefly the election of a Council, and Officers, for the future administration of the affairs

of the Society. Some other points likewise, that were to be brought before the meeting, were noticed in the circular letter, in order to put the Members distinctly in possession of all the topics, that were to come under their consideration.

The Meeting, accordingly, took place, at the Thatched House, St. James's Street.

HENRY THOMAS COLEBROOKE, Esq., was called to the Chair.

With a view to the ballot, HENRY ST. GEORGE TUCKER, Esq., and W. H. TRANT, Esq., were nominated Scrutineers.

Before the ballot commenced, the Chairman desired leave to address the Meeting: he delivered a discourse, in which he developed the views of the Society, and the purposes for which it was instituted. This discourse having been received with marked approbation, by the Meeting, it was moved that it should be printed; and, likewise, that the thanks of the Meeting should be given to the Chairman: which propositions, being respectively seconded, were adopted unanimously by the Meeting.

The Chairman proceeded to announce to the Meeting, that His Majesty, KING GEORGE THE FOURTH, had been graciously pleased to declare himself Patron of the Asiatic Society;

Farther, that the Most Noble the *Marquis Wellesley*, and the Most Noble the *Marquis of Hastings* were nominated Vice-Patrons;

And lastly, that the *President of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, for the time being*, would always be a Vice-Patron.

The following Resolutions were next proposed by the Chairman, and approved by the Meeting:

- I.—That the Society be called, *The Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*.*
- II.—That the designation of the Members of the Society be *M.A.S.† Member of the Asiatic Society*.
- III.—That the Meeting do empower the Council, as soon as it shall have been elected, to frame Regulations, by which, when sanctioned by the Society, at its General Meetings, the Society is in future to be governed.‡
- IV.—That the Council be authorized to take such steps, or make such arrangements, as they may deem advisable, to provide a suitable place for the Society's meetings.§
- V. — That the Council be authorized to take such steps as may be requisite, to obtain a Charter of Incorporation, as early as they may find it expedient and practicable.||
- VI.—That the next General Meeting be held on Saturday, the 19th of April, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Chairman congratulated the Meeting on the promising aspect which the Society bore, stating, that the number of Members already entered on its list, exceeded *Three Hundred*.

* His Majesty having been pleased, subsequently, to grant to the Society the title of *Royal*, its present denomination is, *The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*. This distinction was announced to the Society, by its President, the Right Honourable Charles W. Williams Wynn, at the General Meeting, June 7, 1823, as appears from the Minutes.

† The designation now is *M.R.A.S. Member of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

‡ The Regulations have, accordingly, been framed. They were sanctioned by the Society, at the General Meeting, April 19, 1823. They were afterwards printed, and distributed among the Members.

§ The Council has succeeded in obtaining the lease of a convenient house, situated in Grafton Street, Bond Street, which was taken possession of, in the name of the Society, on the 15th of January, 1824; and the Society met there, for the first time, on the 17th of that month.

|| The Charter, by which the Society now is incorporated, is dated August 11, 1824.

The Chairman having concluded, the ballot opened, and was carried on till four o'clock, as had been previously fixed, when, being closed, the lists were examined by the Scrutineers. It was then declared from the Chair, that the following Twenty-five Members had been elected to form the Council, *viz.*

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SOMERSET,
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM,
THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE,
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF ABERDEEN,
THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES W. WILLIAMS WYNN,
THE RIGHT HON. SIR GORE OUSELEY, BART.
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN SULLIVAN,
SIR GEORGE THOMAS STAUNTON, BART.
SIR EDWARD HYDE EAST, BART.
SIR JOHN MALCOLM, G.C.B.
SIR ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, KNT.
SIR JAMES MACINTOSH, KNT.
JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.

JOHN BARROW, Esq.
HENRY THOMAS COLEBROOKE, Esq.
COLONEL F. H. DOYLE,
LIEUTENANT COLONEL C. J. DOYLE,
NEIL BENJAMIN EDMONSTONE, Esq.
JOHN FLEMING, Esq.
CAPTAIN HENRY KATER,
ANDREW MACKLEW, Esq.
WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq.
G. H. NOEHDEN, LL.D.
COLONEL MARK WILKS,
CHARLES WILKINS, Esq.

And out of this number the following were chosen Officers of the Society, *viz.*

President.

THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN.

Director.

HENRY THOMAS COLEBROOKE, Esq.

Vice-Presidents.

SIR GEORGE THOMAS STAUNTON, BART.
SIR JOHN MALCOLM, G.C.B.
SIR ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, KNT.
COLONEL MARK WILKS.

Treasurer.

JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.

Secretary.

GEORGE HENRY NOEHDEN, LL.D.

G. H. NOEHDEN,
Secretary.